

# PROFILING RUSSIAN PROTESTERS

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## *Abstract*

Demonstrations of tens of thousands of Muscovites against elections confirming Vladimir Putin's hold on power made news because of their novelty. However, that does not mean they were representative of the Russian people. Election results suggested that Putin remains by far the most popular choice, but demonstrators allege the election was stolen. The Levada Centre, Russia's leading independent survey organization, provides evidence of the representativeness of both the demonstrators and the election results. It interviewed 791 participants at the 24 December 2011 Moscow demonstration and a cross-section of Moscow's population. The demonstrators appear to be politically substantially more anti-Putin than the city's population and much more so than respondents to nationwide New Russian Barometer surveys taken immediately after the Duma and presidential elections (SPP 490 and 492).